

Civil servants face dismissal over false wealth declarations

BY DAVID WALUGEMBE

KAMPALA. Public servants who under-declare their wealth, conceal assets or submit false information in the ongoing mandatory declaration exercise risk demotion, dismissal, prosecution and confiscation of property, government officials have warned.

The caution was issued yesterday at the launch of the 2026 online declaration of income, assets and liabilities at the Office of the President, where anti-corruption crusaders described the exercise as a critical anti-corruption tool aimed at promoting accountability and integrity in public service.

The exercise, which runs until April 30, requires all public officers and leaders to declare their income, assets, liabilities and gifts in compliance with the Leadership Code Act.

The chairperson of the Leadership Code Tribunal, Dr Roselyn Karugonjo Segawa, warned that officers who provide misleading or incomplete declarations will face severe penalties once discrepancies are discovered during the verification process.

"Those found to have made false declarations risk fines, withholding of salaries, demotion, confiscation of assets and dismissal from office," Dr Karugonjo said.

She cited cases where officers deliber-

ately conceal part of their wealth or inflate their declarations.

"You know you have 11 houses; why do you only declare two? You also know you have three houses; why do you declare five? If we discover this during our verification process, culprits will be punished in accordance with the law," she said.

Dr Karugonjo also warned against misuse of government property and abuse of office, citing cases where public assets are diverted for personal use.

She urged the Inspectorate of Government to ensure compliance with the Leadership Code is made a key consideration in recruitment, interviews and promotion of public officers.

The Inspector General of Government, Lady Justice Aisha Naluzze Batala, said the declaration exercise is intended to promote honesty, transparency and better service delivery. "This exercise will be a key pillar in fighting corruption and promoting accountability," Justice Batala said.

She warned that any officer who fails to submit the declaration by April 30 will face prosecution before the Leadership Code Tribunal for breach of the law.

The IGG said the exercise will help identify unexplained wealth, curb misuse of public resources and ensure funds meant for national development are used for their intended purposes.

According to the Inspectorate, Shs2.4 billion in misappropriated funds was recovered between June and December last year, in addition to Shs2 million recovered between January and February this year.

During the same period, the office concluded 308 corruption cases out of 1,516 complaints received, sanctioning 1,151 cases, representing a 75 percent disposal rate.

The Minister of Public Service, Mr Wilson Muruli Mukasa, called on public officers to embrace the declaration exercise with integrity and transparency as part of efforts to curb the estimated Shs10 trillion lost annually to the corruption monster.